

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03358 220222Z

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9550

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CS, CI

SUBJ: COSTA RICAN VIEWS ON CHILE

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSING RECENT SC MEETING ON CHILE
WITH FONMIN FACIO SEPT. 19, AMB. BENNETT EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT CHILEANS, IN VIEW THEIR TRADITION AND GENERAL
REPUTATION AND INFLUENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY, WOULD SOON
RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES.

2. FONMIN INTERJECTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN HIS INITIAL
REACTION BUT, IN THINKING IT OVER, HE HAD COME TO A
DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW. FONMIN SAID THAT HE AND PRES.
FIGUERES, WITH WHOM HE HAD TALKED BY PHONE
SEPT. 18, WERE NOT SO SOURE NOW THAT ELECTIONS IN NEAR
FUTURE WOULD BE GOOD IDEA FOR CHILE IN LIGHT ITS PRESENT
SITUATION. AS BOTH FIGUERES AND HE VIEW SITUATION,
CHILE HAS BECOME SO POLARIZED AND POLITICIZED IN PAST
TWO OR THREE YEARS THAT PREMATUREELECTIONS MIGHT
RESULT IN FURTHER DAMAGE TO CHILEAN SOCIAL FABRIC. HE
QUOTED FIGUERES AS SAYING HE HOPED NEW REGIME WOULD NOT
MAKE MISTAKE OF HOLDING ELECTIONS TOO SOON. FACIO WENT
ON TO EXPRESS VIEW THAT VERY CAREFUL HANDLING OF BOTH
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SECTORS ARE GOING TO BE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03358 220222Z

NECESSARY IN COMING MONTHS IN CHILE.

3. FONMIN SAID THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER NEWS OF MILITARY COUP REACHED COSTA RICA, PRES. FIGUERES HAD OFFERED ASYLUM TO MRS. ALLENDE. ACCORDING TO FACIO, NEW CHILEAN REGIME PUTTING GREAT PRESSURE ON PRES. FIGUERES TO RECOGNIZE IT BUT FIGUERES HAD SO FAR DEMURRED ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONSULT WITH FONMIN. FACIL ADDED WITH A SMILE THAT SEPT. 18 PHONE CALL CONSTITUTED "CONSULTATIONS". HE ADVISED FIGUERES THAT COSTA RICA SHOULD NOT RUSH TO RECOGNIZE CHILE BUT SHOULD ALSO NOT FIND ITSELF IN THE POSITION OF BEING AMONG THE LAST TO RECOGNIZE.

4. FONMIN SPECULATED WITH SOME AMUSEMENT THAT MEXICANS MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO ABANDON THEIR "SACRED" ESTRADA DOCTRINE IN CASE OF CHILE. CLOSE PERSONAL TIES THAT HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN PRES. ECHEVERRIA AND ALLENDE WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT MEXICAN RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME FOR SOME TIME.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO USUN THAT THESE COMMENTS ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST, COMING AS THEY DO FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OF THE FEW LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH CAN CLAIM A LONG TRADITION OF LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC, CIVILIAN-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT.

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